

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 14, 2004. Claims 1-14 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 4, 9, and 12 are in independent form. Claims 1-8 have been amended to define Applicants' invention more clearly. Claims 9-14 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

As noted in the Amendment filed on December 14, 2004, a Claim To Priority and a certified copy of the priority document for this application were submitted on April 30, 2001. As evidence therefor, Applicants submitted, with that Amendment, a copy of the returned receipt postcard bearing the stamp of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Applicants now attach a copy of the PAIR printout as further evidence of such. Applicants again respectfully request acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy.

The Examiner has still not clearly acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement dated May 21, 2001, in which the only document cited was an unpublished co-pending U.S. patent application. Acknowledgment of that Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,378,070 B1 (Chan).

Claim 1 is directed to a method of conducting, in relation to a print job, a printing process between an originating device and a printer. The method includes inputting security key information specific to the print job to the originating device, and embodying

corresponding print job specific security key information in a physical security key. The method also includes initiating, in association with the print job specific security key information, the printing process at the originating device for outputting the print job from the printer. The method also includes suspending the printing process prior to outputting the print job from the printer. The method further includes inputting, using the physical security key via a local user interface at the printer, the corresponding print job specific security key information, and enabling, depending upon the corresponding print job specific security key information, the suspended printing process to output the print job from the printer.

According to one embodiment of the invention, the security key information "...provides the initiating party with the assurance that the print job will not be output by the printer... until the print initiator (i.e. the user) goes to the printer... and physically inserts the security key ..." (see, e.g., the specification from page 46, line 24, to page 47, line 1).¹

Accordingly, security key information, according to one embodiment of the invention, refers to secret information known only to the individual(s) who input the security key information and the corresponding security key information.

Chan, as understood by Applicants, relates to document printing. In Chan, the sender inputs details of the document to be printed, and the identity of the intended recipient (see column 6, lines 5-7). Chan does not teach or suggest that the identity of the intended recipient is in any way secret information, and accordingly the identity of the intended recipient is not

¹ It is of course to be understood that the references to various portions of the present application are by way of illustration and example only, and that the claims are not limited by the details shown in the portions referred to.

understood to be security key information as recited in Claim 1. Further, in Chan, the intended recipient inserts his smart card into the card reader 280 of the secure printer 140, the smart card including the recipients identity and the recipient's private key (see column 6, lines 60-63). Since, as noted in regard to the sender, Chan does not teach or suggest that the identity of the intended recipient is in any way secret information, the identity of the intended recipient is not security key information as recited in Claim 1, and accordingly cannot be corresponding security key information.

The term "corresponding" according to the Oxford Dictionary & Thesaurus, Oxford University Press, Reissued in 1997, ISBN 0-19-860171-9, means to be alike or similar or analogous or to match. Accordingly, the security key information and the corresponding security key information of Claim 1 are similar or analogous to each other, or match each other in an appropriate manner. This can be understood by reference to the description that refers, in one example, to insertion of the same physical key 300 both at the originating device and at the printer (see the specification at page 46, lines 16-23).

As noted, in Chan, the intended recipient inserts his smart card into the card reader 280 of the secure printer 140, the smart card including the recipient's identity and the recipient's private key (see column 6, lines 60-63). Even if the recipient's private key were deemed to be secret, the recipient's private key is not alike or similar or analogous to any information input by the sender. This is because the sender only inputs details of the document to be printed and the identity of the intended recipient (column 6, lines 5-7), neither of which is security key information as recited in Claim 1, and thus the information that the intended

recipient inputs has no security key information with which to correspond.

Nothing in Chan would teach or suggest inputting security key information specific to a print job to an originating device, as recited in Claim 1. Also, nothing in Chan would teach or suggest initiating, in association with the print job specific security key information, the printing process at the originating device for outputting the print job from the printer, as recited in Claim 1. Further, nothing in Chan would teach or suggest inputting, using the physical security key via a local user interface at the printer, the corresponding print job specific security key information, as recited in Claim 1. Moreover, nothing in Chan would teach or suggest enabling, depending upon the corresponding print job specific security key information, the suspended printing process to output the print job from the printer, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Chan.

Independent Claims 4, 9, and 12 recite features similar in many relevant respects to those discussed above with respect to Claim 1 and therefore are also believed to be patentable over Chan for at least the reasons discussed above.

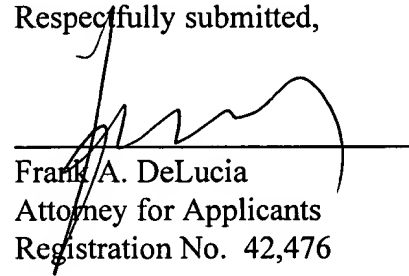
The other claims in this application depend from one or the other of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully

request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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